TO OSHU

EIGHT MONTHS HAS PASSED SINCE
YOSHITSUNE AND BENKEI LEFT KYOTO FOR OSHU
YEAR CHANGED AND IT'S CURRENTLY FEBRUARY
5TH JOAN YEAR (1175)

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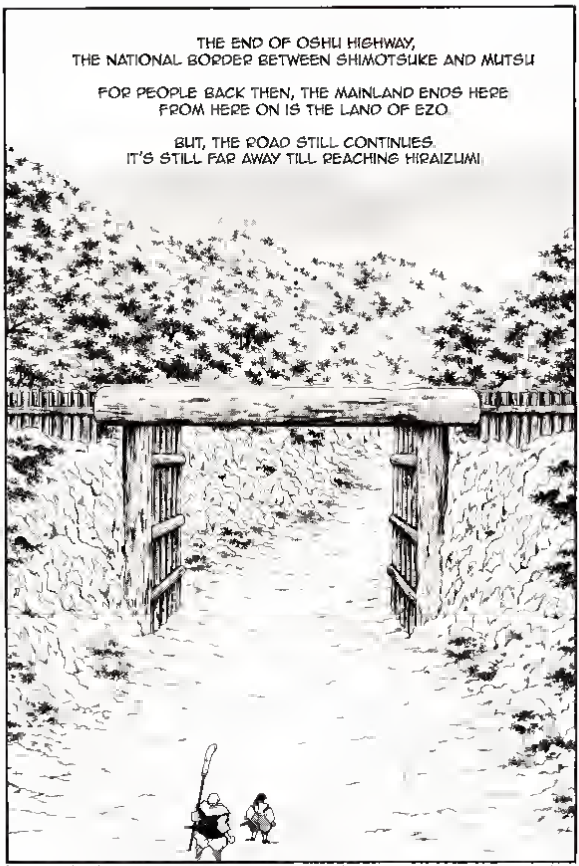
THIS IS SHIRAKAWA GATE


THE END OF OSHU HIGHWAY,
THE NATIONAL BORDER BETWEEN SHIMOTSUKE AND MUTSU
FOR PEOPLE BACK THEN, THE MAINLAND ENDS HERE
FROM HERE ON IS THE LAND OF EZO.
BUT, THE ROAD STILL CONTINUES.
IT'S STILL FAR AWAY TILL REACHING HIRAIZUMI.

*SHIRAKAWA GATE, NEAR THE BORDER OF THE CURRENT TOCHIGI PREFECTURE FUKUSHIMA.

THE GATE IS OPEN AND THERE ARE NO GUARDS WITHIN SIGHT
MAYBE IT'S TO SHOW THEIR CONFIDENSE THAT THEY WON'T EITHER INVADE OR BE INVADED
THERE HE IS! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
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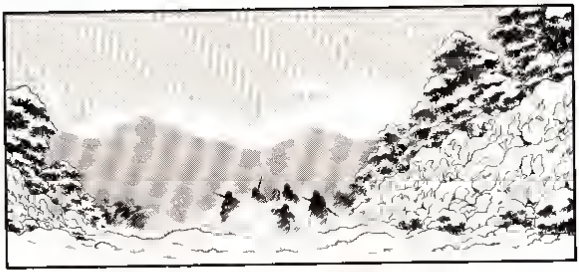
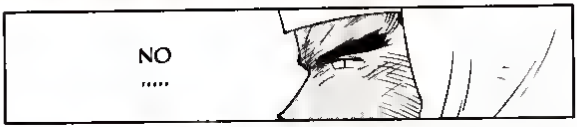
PURSUERS...?!




NO
.....

YOU PEASANTS, ARE YOU HIS COMRADES?
NO, WE'RE TRAVELERS
WE DON'T KNOW HIM
THEN GET OUT OF THE WAY! THIS ONE IS A BANDIT IN KOZUKE
PROTECTING HIM MEANS GOING AGAINTS THE GOVERNMENT AND RUNNING AWAY WITH HIM MEANS GOING AGAINTS THE HEIKE CLAN

YOUNG MASTER
ザ
YES!
TSK! JUST ONE MORE STEP, AND I'D MANAGED TO GET AWAY TO OSHU
LOOKS LIKE MY LUCK IS OVER!
WHAT THOSE PEOPLE SAID ABOUT ME IS TRUE!
WHAT? HEY, MOVE AWAY!

WHAT'S WITH HIM?
HEY! WHY ARE YOU KEEP STARING AT ME?!
STOP IT!
WE'LL SHOOT IF YOU DON'T MOVE AWAY!
HEY!
MISTER BENKEI, THIS ONE
HEY!
PLEASE JUST CALL ME BENKEI!

SEEMS LIKE THIS MAN IS ALSO A GOOD PERSON
AFTER ALL, I WORK FOR YOU!
WHY ARE YOU STILL TALKING? MOVE AWAY IMMEDIATELY
!?
IF THAT'S SO...
BENKEI
LET'S HELP THIS MAN!
AS YOU WISH!

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WHAT?!
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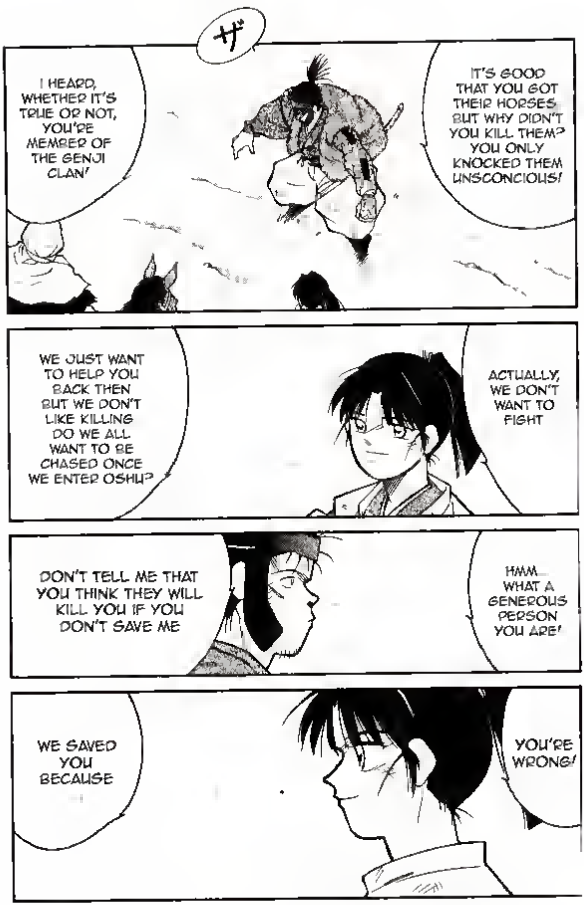
D-DAMN YOU!
NUO-OOO-OO!!!

ARE YOU TWO DEMONS?
NO— BUT I DO KNOW A MAN CLOSE ENOUGH TO BE ONE
WE'RE HUMANS I'M THE NINTH SON OF MINAMOTO NO YOSHIMOTO, YOSHITSUNE THAT ONE OVER THERE IS MUSASHIBOU BENKEI
HEY!
A GENJI...? MOREOVER, YOSHIMOTO'S SON?
MASTER, I'VE TAKEN THEIR HORSES!


I HEARD, WHETHER IT'S TRUE OR NOT, YOU'RE MEMBER OF THE GENJI CLAN!
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU GOT THEIR HORSES, BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU KILL THEM? YOU ONLY KNOCKED THEM UNSCONCIOUS!
WE JUST WANT TO HELP YOU BACK THEN BUT WE DON'T LIKE KILLING DO WE ALL WANT TO BE CHASED ONCE WE ENTER OSHU?
ACTUALLY, WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU THINK THEY WILL KILL YOU IF YOU DON'T SAVE ME
HMM... WHAT A GENEROUS PERSON YOU ARE!
WE SAVED YOU BECAUSE
YOU'RE WRONG!

YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON!
HEY! IS HE INSANE?!
PROB-ABLY!

DESTR-
OYING
THE HEIKE
CLAN!
BECAUSE
IF I'M NOT,
I WON'T EVER
BE THINKING
ABOUT
HEY! HEY!
ZIL
FROM HERE
WE CAN REACH
OSHU, OR EVEN
KOZUKE,
IMMEDIATELY
THERE
HAPPENS
TO BE THREE
HORSES
HERE
HOW
ABOUT YOU
RIDE ON ONE
AS WELL?
HOW
ABOUT
AS IF I
CAN ESCAPE
ALL BY
MYSELF
I STILL
HAVE
FOLLO-
WERS
BACK IN
KOZUKE

AT FIRST HE WAS A PRIEST, BUT ALL I COULD REMEMBER OF MY FATHER IS THAT HE WAS JUST ANOTHER BANDIT
MY MOTHER IS A DAUGHTER OF A SAMURAI IN A SMALL VILLAGE AND MY FATHER IS JUST A TRAVELER
IN THE END, EVERYONE WAS KILLED
WE RAISED OUR HANDS AGAINTS NITTA YOSHISHIGE WHO WORKS FOR THE HEIKE
AND WE LOST ALL OF OUR PROPERTY
WE FOLLOWED THE GENJI DURING THE PERELION
I'M SORRY!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I'M NOT EVEN CRYING!

YOU FOLLOWED THE GENJI DURING THE REBELLION
YOU MUST'VE SUFFERED BECAUSE MY FATHER LOST
AS HIS SON,
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING BUT APOLOGIZE FORGIVE ME!
. . . .
EVEN IF YOU APOLOGIZE, IT WON'T BRING BACK THE DEAD
WHAT AN UNBELIEVABLE THING HE SAID . . . え
THEY'RE ABOUT TO REGAIN THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS SOON MASTER, GET ON THE HORSE!

HOW DO YOU DO IT? I'VE NEVER RIDE A HORSE BEFORE
BENKEI
OH!
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU GREW UP IN A TEMPLE
ALRIGHT! YOU CAN USE MY LEG AS A STEP
I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO TAKE REVENGE ON THE HEIKE
ONCE YOU GET ON, I WILL BE TAKING THE MOUTH

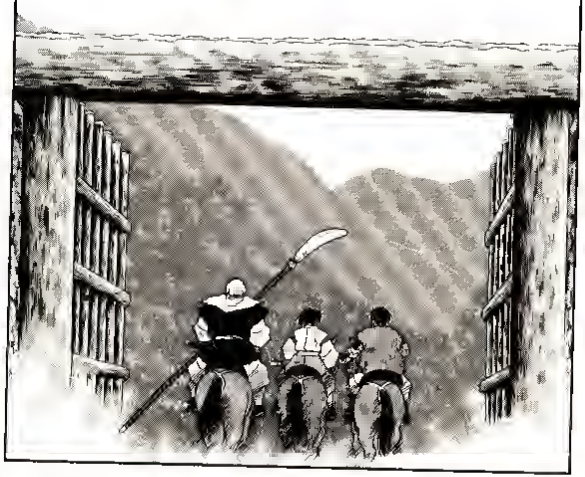
*TAKING THE MOUTH, AS IN HOLDING THE REINS FROM THE SIDE

I HAVE NOTHING TO PAY YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE. SO IN THE MEAN TIME, I WILL FOLLOW YOU UNTIL I CAN PAY IT OFF
.....
THEN, CAN YOU PLEASE TELL US YOUR NAME?
SORRY FOR BEING IN YOUR CARE!
ISE SABURO!

ISE SABURO, LATER BECOME YOSHIMORI

IN YEARS TO COME, WOULD BECOME ONE OF YOSHITSUNE'S FOUR HEAVENLY KINGS.

WITH STRONG COMPANIONS,
THE YOUNG YOSHITSUNE PASSED SHIRAKAWA GATE,
ENTERING THE COUNTRY OF MUTSU.



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THUS,
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WHEN SPRING
ARRIVED IN MUTSU
A BIT LATER
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WE'VE ARRIVED AT HIRAIZUMI!
SA-BURO
AND WE'LL FINALLY BE THERE
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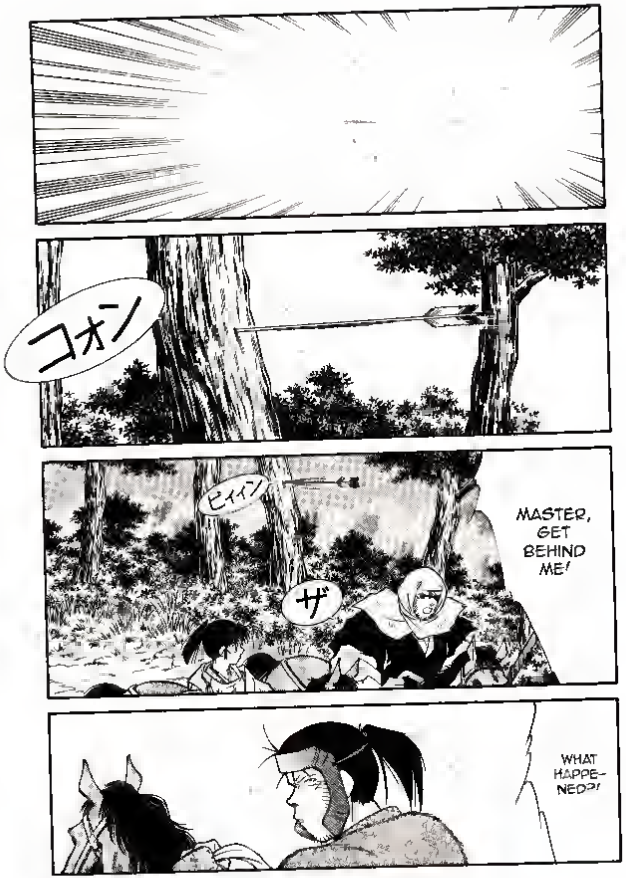
JUST BEYOND THIS MOUNTAIN PASS
HMM
I SEE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MASTER, GET BEHIND ME!
WHAT HAPPENED?!

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AH!
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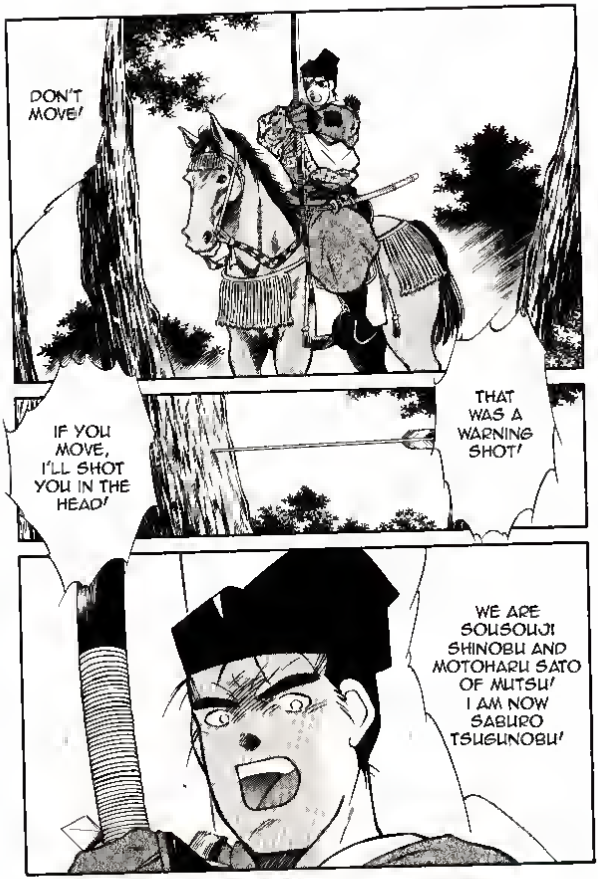
BEHIND TOO!


DON'T MOVE!
IF YOU MOVE, I'LL SHOT YOU IN THE HEAD!
THAT WAS A WARNING SHOT!
WE ARE SOUSOUJI SHINOBU AND MOTOHARU SATO OF MUTSU! I AM NOW SABURO TSUGUNOBU!

LIKEWISE, SHIRO TADANOBU!
HALT!
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WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? HEIKE ISN'T SUPPOSED TO HAVE ANY INFLUENCE IN OSHU...
WE'VE HEARD ABOUT THE COMMOTION YOU MADE IN SHIRAKAWA GATE!
SILENCE! YOU ARE THE BANDITS OF KOZUKE!

I SEE BUT
HEH! I TOLD YOU! YOU SHOULD'VE KILLED THEM!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO EXECUTE THOSE WHO RUN AWAY HERE?
THIS IS MUTSU, COUNTRY OF FUJIWARA SURELY NOT AN ALLY OF HEIKE!
BUT IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY WHEN YOU'RE BANDITS! OSHU DOES NOT NEED ANY THIEVES!
AT FIRST, WE WANTED TO OFFER HELP FOR YOU!
BEN-KEI!
WE ARE NOT BANDITS!

WE DID SAVE A BANDIT, SO THAT WOULD MAKE US A BANDIT AS WELL
MASTER!
EVEN THOUGH HE HAS A GIRLISH FACE JUST WHO IS HE?
HE'S THEIR MASTER?!
THE NINTH SON OF MINAMOTO NO YOSHI-TOMO,
I AM

YOSHI-
TSUNE!
NINTH
GENJI
YOU HAVE
THE FEATURE
OF A KYOTO
MAN
I SEE

DO YOU THINK SINCE HEIKE'S POWER COULDN'T REACH HERE, YOU CAN JUST WAVING GENJI'S NAME? RIDICULOUS!
SO WHAT? DO YOU THINK YOUR LIES WOULD DECEIVE US?
HEH!
BUT UNFORTUNATELY I DIDN'T BRING ANY PROOF WITH ME
I'M NOT LYING
I ONLY HAVE
YOUNG MASTER, SEEMS LIKE WE HAVE TO FIGHT THEM

THIS GOLD SEAL
WOULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT IT?

WHAT IS THAT?
I WAS TOLD TO SHOW THIS TO LORD HIDEHIRA
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
MISTER KIICHI MUTSU
ヒュン

コォン

NRGH!

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I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S AN IMPORTANT OBJECT TO YOU, BUT IT FELL INTO THAT VALLEY
MISTER SATO?
I'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH STORY!
DO YOU THINK WE'LL LET YOU OFF JUST BY SHOWING US A PIECE OF GOLD?
YOU CAN FIND GOLD ANYWHERE IN OSHU!
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? DID MISTER MUTSU DECEIVED US? NO, HE WOULD NEVER DO THAT.
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FIRE, TADANOBU!
DON'T MOVE!
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MASTER, BE CAREFUL!
ビィィン
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HE BLOCKED MY ARROW
SEEMS LIKE HE'S NOT AN ORDINARY PERSON BUT IF WE FIRE TWO ARROWS AT THE SAME TIME, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO BLOCK THEM!
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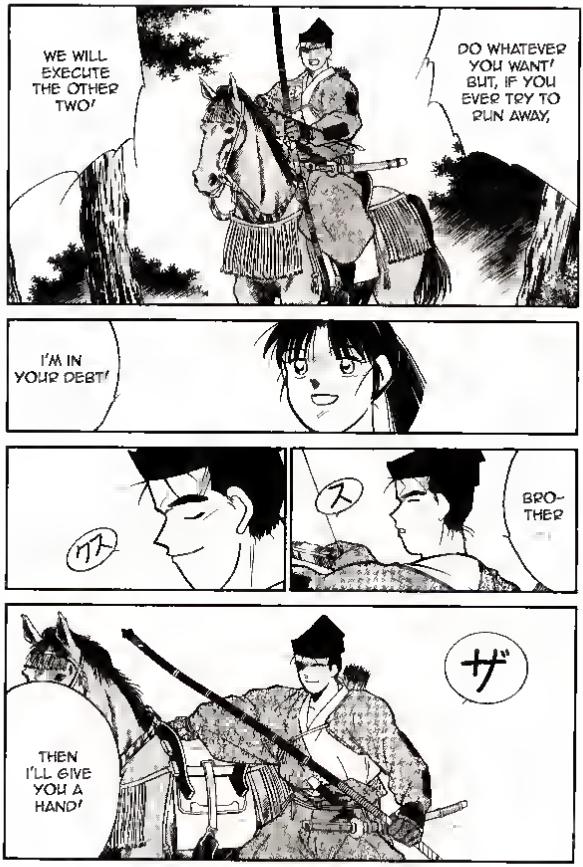
DON'T MOVE!
BENKEI!
WHAT ARE Y..!

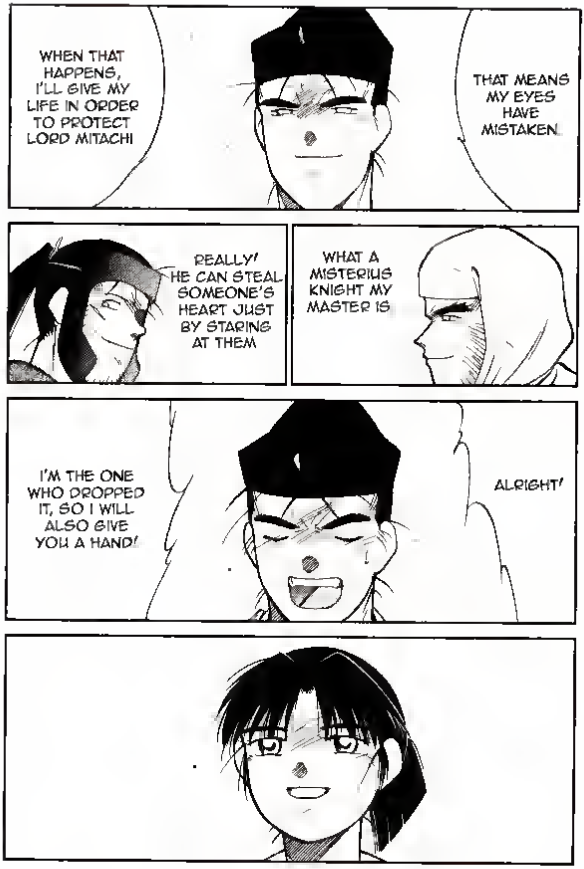
DON'T FIGHT THEM!
THEY'RE NOT CARRYING ANY EVIL EYES WITH THEM.
MAS-TER
MISTER SATO,
I DON'T HAVE ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVE.
I ONLY WANTED TO GO PICK UP
THAT FALLEN EMPEROR SEAL. WILL YOU ALLOW THAT?
WHAT?
THAT IS NOT MINE. IT WAS A LOAN
MORE THAN ANY-THING,

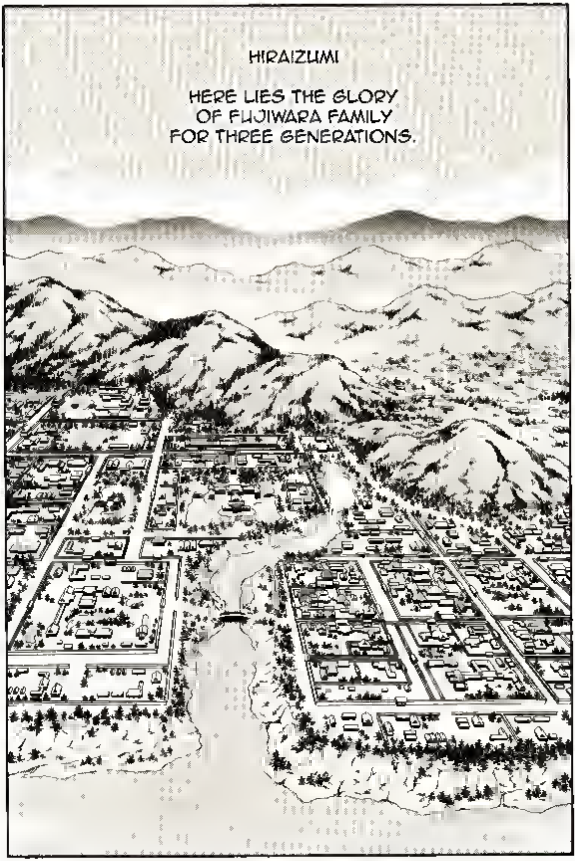
I DOUBT IT'S SOMETHING THAT KIICHI MUTSU, THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO GO TO OSHU, WOULD'VE WANTED
FOR IT TO GET THROWN AWAY HERE,
JUST FOR THAT REASON...
I'M SURE YOU WON'T TAKE MY LIFE
W... WHAT? HE'S LOOKING AT ME SHARPLY

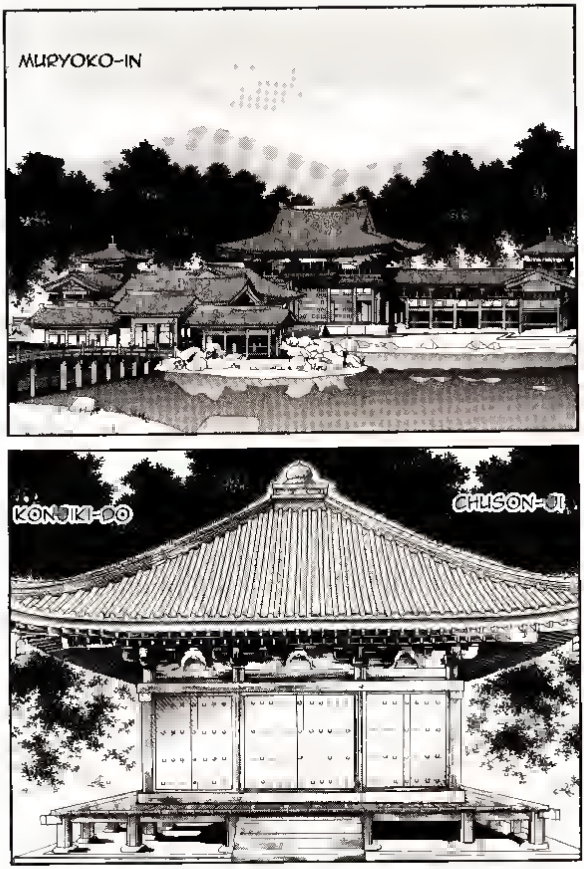

WE WILL EXECUTE THE OTHER TWO!
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT! BUT, IF YOU EVER TRY TO RUN AWAY,
I'M IN YOUR DEBT!
BRO-THER
ザ
THEN I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND!

TADA-NOBU!
IT'S YOUR LOST, BRO-THER
WE WON'T KNOW WHETHER HE'S LYING OR TELLING THE TRUTH UNLESS WE LET HIM MEET LORD HIDEHIRA
THEY'D SURELY AFTER LORD MITACHI'S LIFE
IF THEY ARE HEIKE'S SPIES,
HMM

'MITACHI HIDEHIRA'S TITLE


WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I'LL GIVE MY LIFE IN ORDER TO PROTECT LORD MITACHI
THAT MEANS MY EYES HAVE MISTAKEN
REALLY! HE CAN STEAL SOMEONE'S HEART JUST BY STARING AT THEM
WHAT A MISTERIUS KNIGHT MY MASTER IS
I'M THE ONE WHO DROPPED IT, SO I WILL ALSO GIVE YOU A HAND!
ALRIGHT!

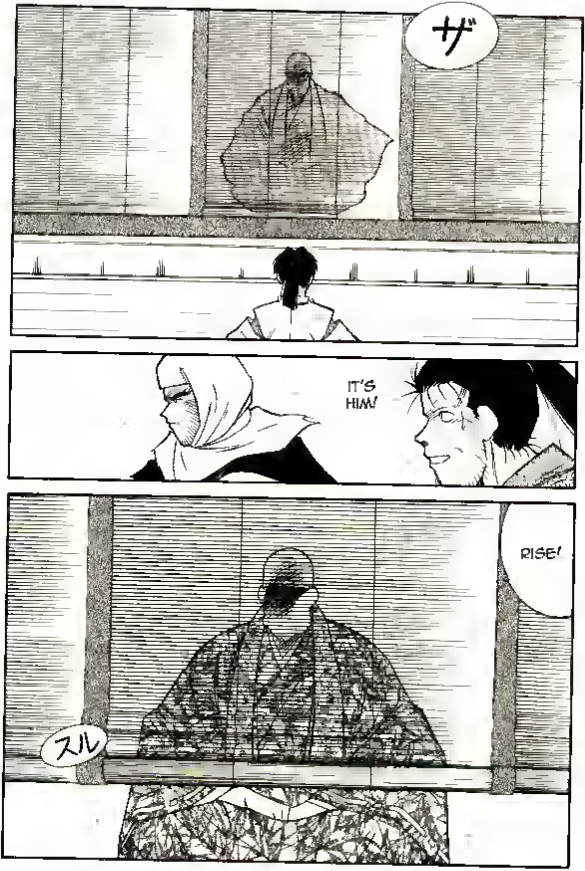

HIRAIZUMI
HERE LIES THE GLORY
OF FUJIWARA FAMILY
FOR THREE GENERATIONS.



T/N GOOGLE THEM!

HIRAIZUMI NO TACHI
YOU WAIT HERE!
*TACHI: GOVERNMENT OFFICE
WOW! THIS PLACE IS HUGE!
IT'S EVEN MORE MAGNIFICENT THAT I HEARD.
INDEED!

TO BE ABLE TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH THE NORTH KING HIMSELF
BUT YOU'RE ALSO MAGNIFICENT, YOUNG MASTER.
IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW THE PURPOSE OF THAT GOLD SEAL,
WILL HE BE ABLE TO CHARM NORTHERN KING'S HEART JUST BY LOOKING IN HIS EYES?
IF HE COULD BORROW EVEN SOME OF HIS ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THOUSAND CAVALRY, THEN...
IN ORDER TO DESTROY THE HEIKE CLAN, HE'D NEED AN ARMY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IT'S HIM!
RISE!
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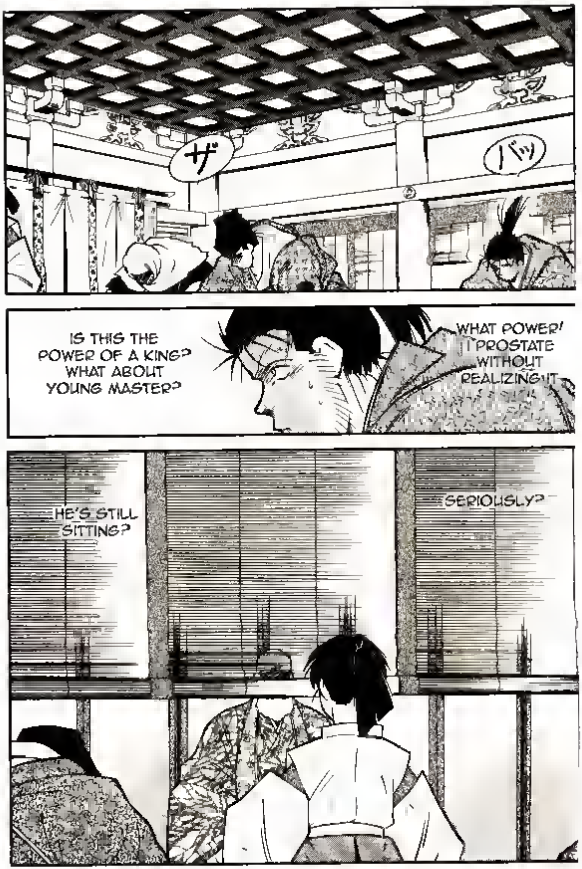
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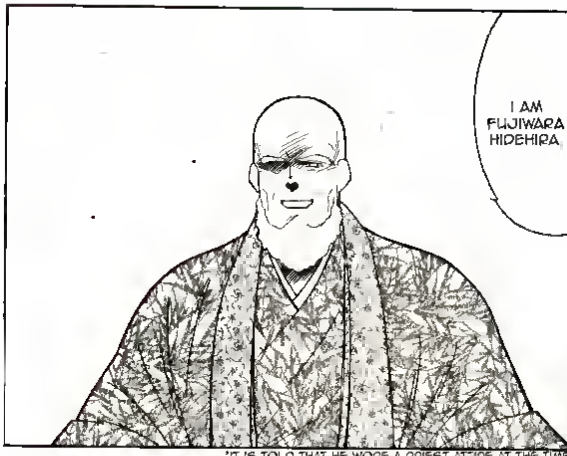
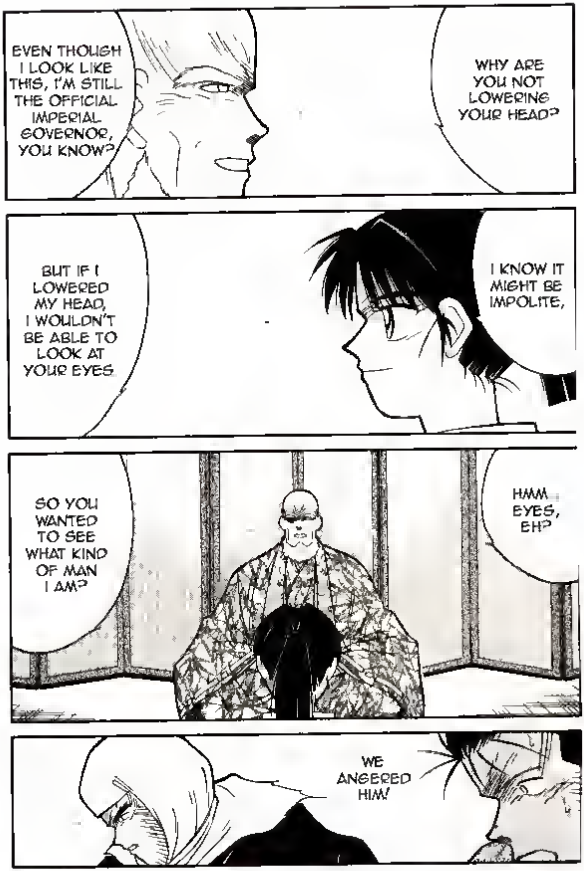
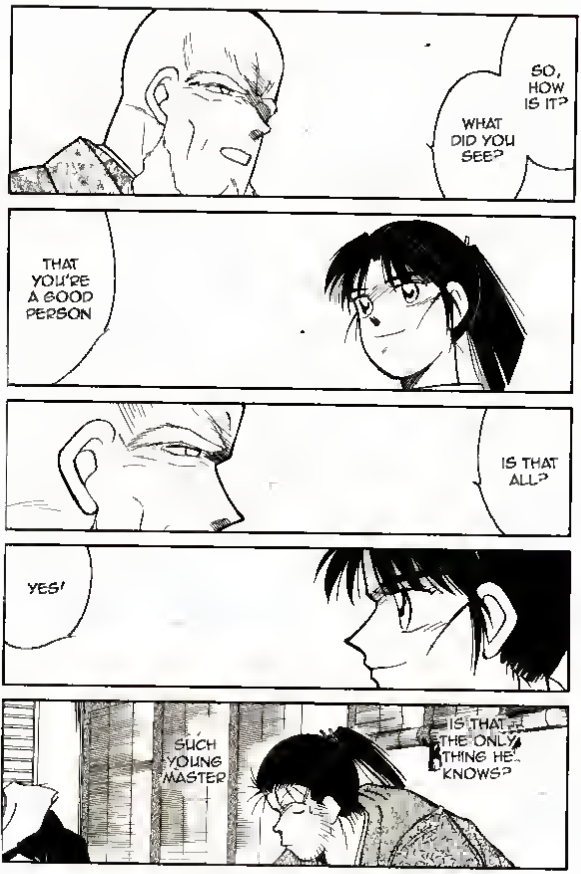
IS THIS THE POWER OF A KING? WHAT ABOUT YOUNG MASTER?
WHAT POWER! I PROSTATE WITHOUT REALIZING IT
HE'S STILL SITTING?
SERIOUSLY?

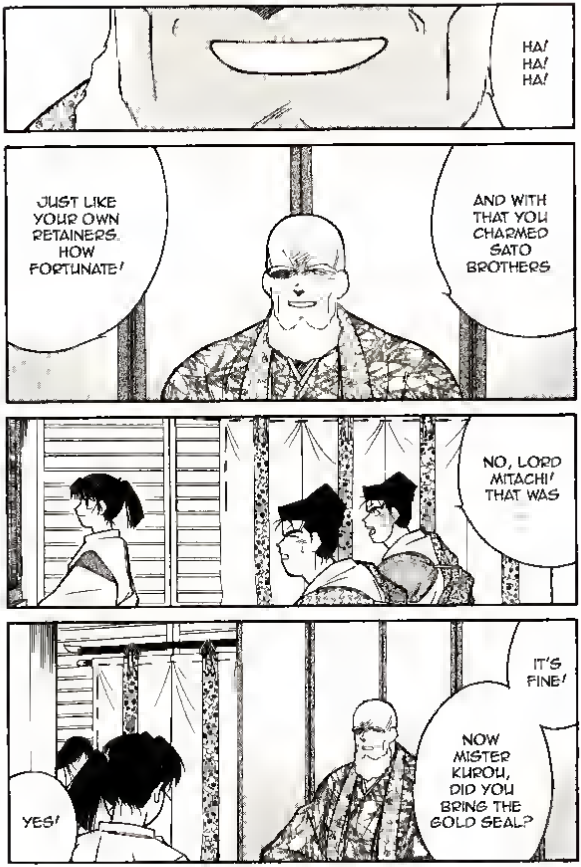


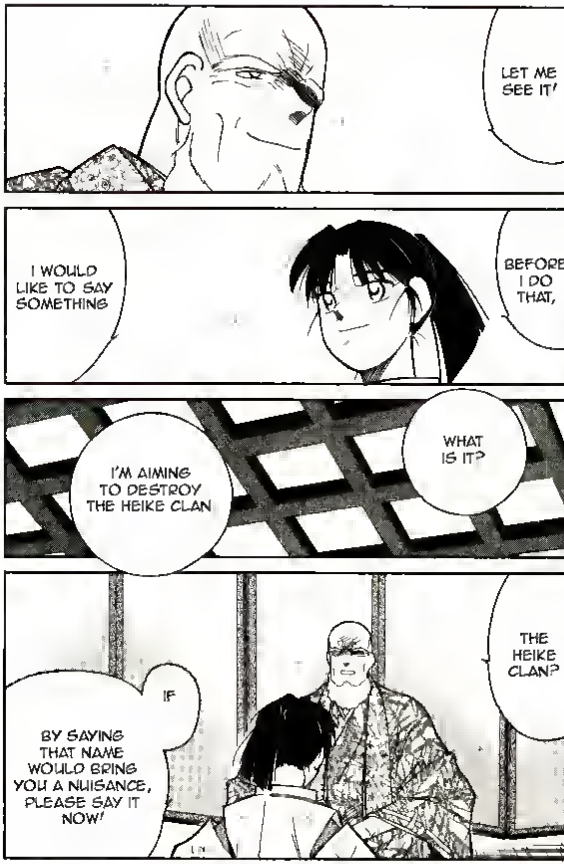
T/N: KUROU MEANS NINTH, AS IN NINTH SON


EVEN THOUGH I LOOK LIKE THIS, I'M STILL THE OFFICIAL IMPERIAL GOVERNOR, YOU KNOW?
WHY ARE YOU NOT LOWERING YOUR HEAD?
BUT IF I LOWERED MY HEAD, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LOOK AT YOUR EYES.
I KNOW IT MIGHT BE IMPOLITE,
SO YOU WANTED TO SEE WHAT KIND OF MAN I AM?
HMM. EYES, EH?
WE ANSWERED HIM!

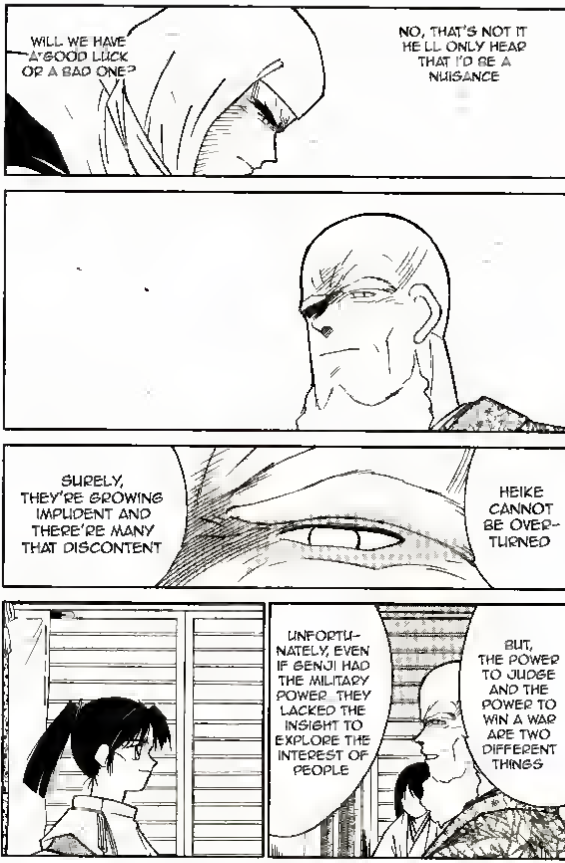
OFFICIAL IMPERIAL GOVERNOR: HIGHEST MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN OU (OSHU AND DEWA PREFECTURE)


SO, HOW IS IT?
WHAT DID YOU SEE?
THAT YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON
IS THAT ALL?
YES!
SUCH YOUNG MASTER
IS THAT THE ONLY THING HE KNOWS?

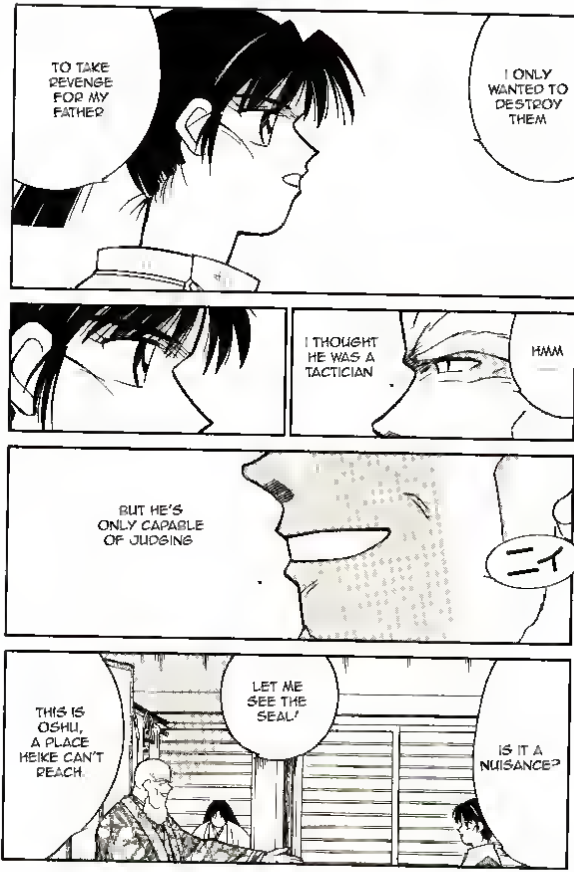

HA! HA! HA!
JUST LIKE YOUR OWN RETAINERS. HOW FORTUNATE!
AND WITH THAT YOU CHARMED SATO BROTHERS
NO, LORD MITACHI! THAT WAS
IT'S FINE!
NOW MISTER KUROU, DID YOU BRING THE GOLD SEAL?
YES!


LET ME SEE IT!
BEFORE I DO THAT,
I WOULD LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING
WHAT IS IT?
I'M AIMING TO DESTROY THE HEIKE CLAN
THE HEIKE CLAN?
IF BY SAYING THAT NAME WOULD BRING YOU A NUISANCE, PLEASE SAY IT NOW!

THOUGH, IF YOU LET ME SEE THE SEAL, I WILL DEFINETELY MAKE YOUR WISH COME TRUE. SO YOU BETTER JUST SAY IT
I SEE
THAT PERSON ALSO SAID THAT AND I BELIEVE HIM
YES
IS IT A NUISANCE?
HE DIDN'T STATE HIS PROBLEM, BUT HIS JUDGEMENT ON HIDEHIRA INSTEAD. IF HE WON'T STATE HIS PROBLEM, HE WON'T BE GIVEN ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THOUSAND CAVALRY
HE'S AMAZING! YOUNG MASTER IS MORE THAN I THOUGHT

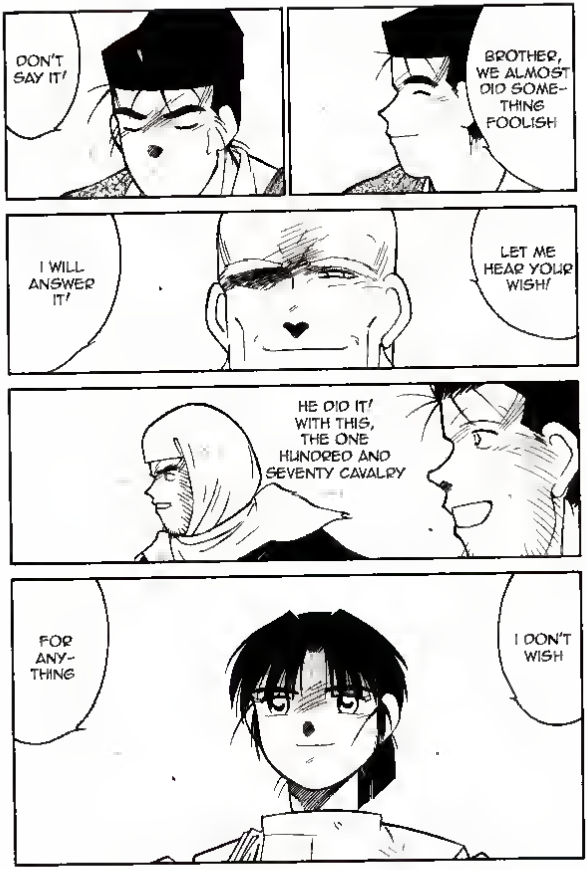

WILL WE HAVE A GOOD LUCK OR A BAD ONE?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT HE'LL ONLY HEAR THAT I'D BE A NUISANCE
SURELY, THEY'RE GROWING IMPUDENT AND THERE'RE MANY THAT DISCONTENT
HEIKE CANNOT BE OVER-TURNED
UNFORTU-NATELY, EVEN IF GENJI HAD THE MILITARY POWER THEY LACKED THE INSIGHT TO EXPLORE THE INTEREST OF PEOPLE
BUT, THE POWER TO JUDGE AND THE POWER TO WIN A WAR ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS

IT'S A MISTAKE IF YOU WANT TO GATHERING AN ARMY TO DEFEAT THE HEIKE
OF COURSE GENJI WOULD BE DEFEATED IN HEIJI REBELLION
AS EXPECTED FROM THE NORTH KING!
QUITE A SLICK NO MATTER WHAT!
OF DESTROYING HEIKE SO THAT THE GENJI CLAN COULD TAKE THEIR PLACE...
I'M NOT THINKING


TO TAKE REVENGE FOR MY FATHER
I ONLY WANTED TO DESTROY THEM
I THOUGHT HE WAS A TACTICIAN
HMM
BUT HE'S ONLY CAPABLE OF JUDGING
ニイ
THIS IS OSHU, A PLACE HEIKE CAN'T REACH
LET ME SEE THE SEAL!
IS IT A NUISANCE?

YES!
HE DID IT!
ザ
IT'S MUTSU'S SEAL.
NO MISTAKE!

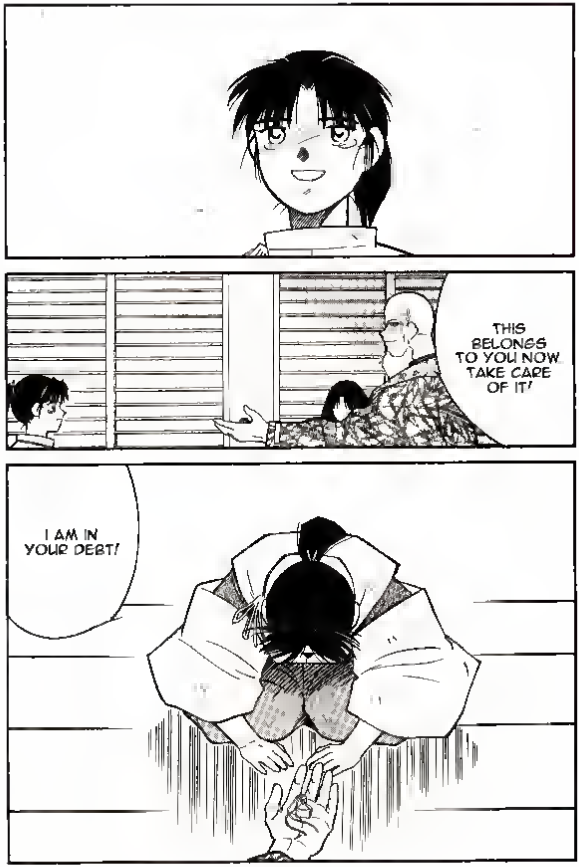
KIICHI MUTSU
WHO GAVE YOU THIS?
IS IT TRUE, LORD MITACHI?
NO, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN.
YOU DON'T KNOW MUTSU, HUH?
WELL, IT WAS FUJIWARA FAMILY'S PRIVATE MATTER
OSHU FUJIWARA IS ALREADY THREE GENERATION AND I'VE AGED
SO OF COURSE YOU YOUNGSTERS NEVER HEARD OF THE NAME.

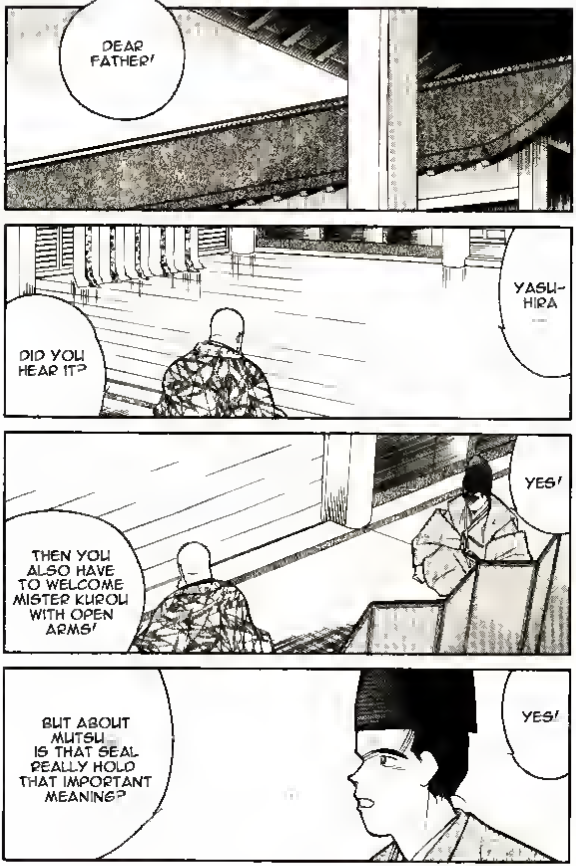

DON'T SAY IT!
BROTHER, WE ALMOST DID SOME-THING FOOLISH
I WILL ANSWER IT!
LET ME HEAR YOUR WISH!
HE DID IT! WITH THIS, THE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY CAVALRY
FOR ANY-THING
I DON'T WISH

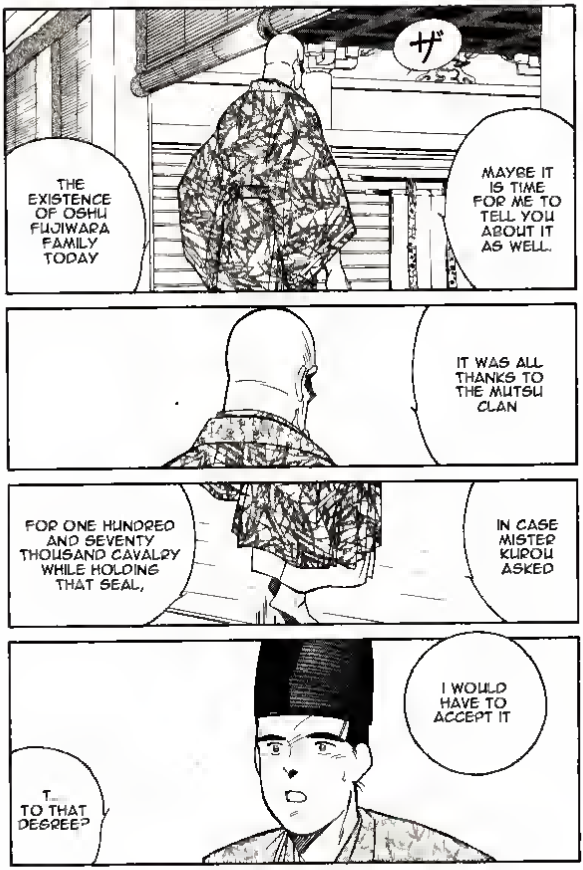
IF IT'S MASTER, THEN...
NO
WHA...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ピク
"IF POSSIBLE, JUST STAY OVER THERE IN OSHU!"
BEFORE I LEFT, MISTER KIICHI MUTSU SAID THIS.
I TOLD HIM "THAT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN'T DO."
AND WHAT WAS YOUR ANSWER?

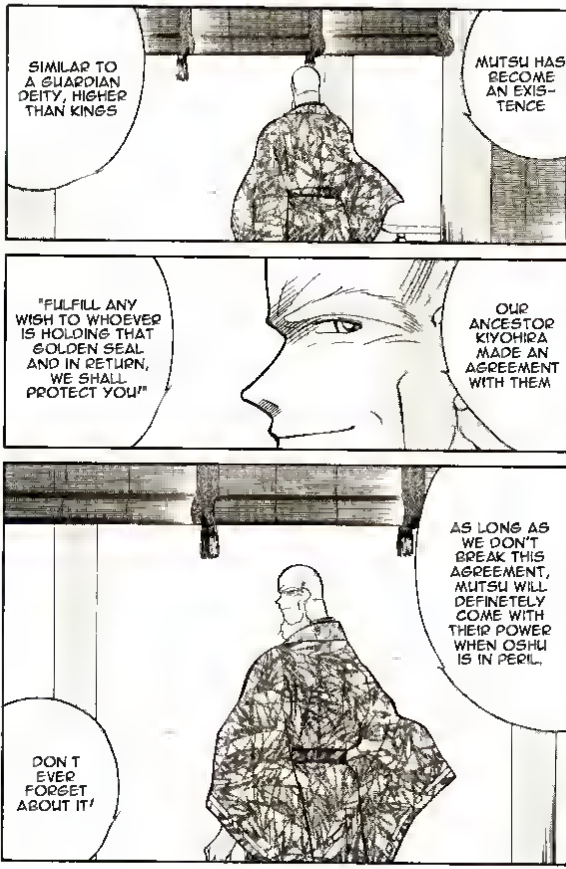
I AM THINKING OF FORGING MYSELF HERE
SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IN OSHU?
I COULDN'T EVEN RIDE A HORSE, USING A BOW NOR A LONG SWORD
EMBARRASSINGLY, I AM A SON OF A BANDOU WARRIOR
THEREFORE, I WOULD LIKE TO LIVE HERE AND TRY AGAIN
AT LEAST UNTIL I GREW UP AND BECOME A PROPER WARRIOR

HA! HA! HA!
THAT'S YOUR ONLY WISH AFTER YOU ASKED ME IF IT'D BE A NUISANCE?
I HAVE NOTHING TO GIVE YOU
AND I DON'T HAVE ANYONE WHO COULD RETURN YOUR KINDNESS
I LOST, HUH? HE COMPLETELY DEFEAT ME
BUT STRANGELY, IT FEELS PLEASANT
FEEL FREE TO MAKE OSHU YOUR HOME! WE WELCOME YOU!


THIS BELONGS TO YOU NOW. TAKE CARE OF IT!
I AM IN YOUR DEBT!


DEAR FATHER!
YASU-HIRA
DID YOU HEAR IT?
YES!
THEN YOU ALSO HAVE TO WELCOME MISTER KUROU WITH OPEN ARMS!
YES!
BUT ABOUT MUTSU IS THAT SEAL REALLY HOLD THAT IMPORTANT MEANING?

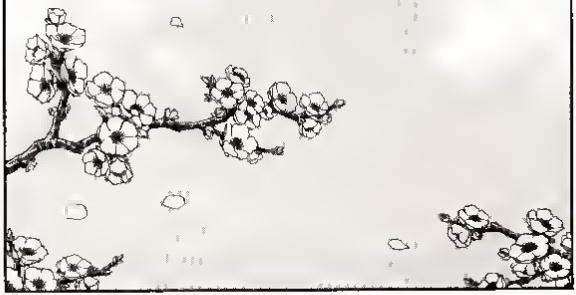

ザ
MAYBE IT IS TIME FOR ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT AS WELL.
THE EXISTENCE OF OSHU FUJIWARA FAMILY TODAY
IT WAS ALL THANKS TO THE MUTSU CLAN
IN CASE MISTER KUROU ASKED
FOR ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THOUSAND CAVALRY WHILE HOLDING THAT SEAL,
I WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT IT
T... TO THAT DEGREE?


SIMILAR TO A GUARDIAN DEITY, HIGHER THAN KINGS
MUTSU HAS BECOME AN EXIS-TENCE
"FULFILL ANY WISH TO WHOEVER IS HOLDING THAT GOLDEN SEAL AND IN RETURN, WE SHALL PROTECT YOU!"
OUR ANCESTOR KIYOHIRA MADE AN AGREEMENT WITH THEM
AS LONG AS WE DON'T BREAK THIS AGREEMENT, MUTSU WILL DEFINETELY COME WITH THEIR POWER WHEN OSHU IS IN PERIL.
DON'T EVER FORGET ABOUT IT!

FIFTH YEAR OF THE JOAN ERA, SPRING.
YOSHITSUNE MET FUJIWARA HIDEHIRA.

AT THE TIME, THE SOUND OF
BATTLEFIELD HAD DISAPPEARED

THE HEIKE CLAN WAS SEEN
UNWAVERING.



第八巻に続く

作者あとがき

弱者や、形勢の不利な方を応援することを『判官贔屓』と言う。

判官（はんがん）とは『じょう』とも言い、律令制の四等官の一つの役職の事であり、一般的には判官といえば『検非違使の尉』を指す。京の警察官と裁判官を兼ねた職で、判官贔屓とはつまりこれが義経の官職であったが為に、彼の運命に対する愛惜から生まれた言葉である。

源九郎義経とは本編で紹介した通り、源義朝の九男である（一部には実は八男であるという説もあり、それがなんで九郎と云うかの解釈が腕の見せ所らしいのだけれど、大した腕も無いので僕は素直に九男説を取りました）。誇になるくらいであるから、この九郎義経は実は日本史上最大の人気者であるという。今でこそ、その人気にも陰りが見えるけれども、一昔前までは旅芝居の演目が義経と関係ないにもかかわらず、とりあえず開演時に義経の扮装をした役者が（何の脈絡も無しに）登場する、しないと観客が怒ってしまうという話があったとか……。

おそらくは、その人気に対する反動だろうと、ひねくれ者の僕などは邪推してしまうのだけれど、学術関係での義経の評価は芳しくない。頼朝は偉いけれど義経は偉くない……」と云った論調が主流なのである。これが実は納得できないのだ。『一人とも偉くない……』と云うなら分からないでもない。いくら人気者の義経といえど（良い話悪い話共に）事実かどうかは別にして、良い事ばかり伝わっている訳でもないのだから（まあ、悪いことの多くは鎌倉幕府編纂の『吾妻鏡』に拠るものだけれど）。無論頼朝にも悪い話が伝わっている。こっちはあからさまに事実だったりしても、なぜか頼朝の心情を慮ったりして、やむなく……といった解釈がなされちゃったりするのだ。

そういうのを読んじゃったり見たりすると、やっぱり日本人なのかむくむくと沸き上がってくるのである、『判官贔屓』ってやつが。

えー　そういう次第で、今回は『源　義経編』をお届け致します。

さて、今回の『刻』に義経を選んだものの（義経は刻を描き始めたころ

から描く予定ではありましたが)、実は僕にとって結構謎な男だったのである。つまり伝説や、史実が入り交じっているせいもあって、何だか納得が行かないところが多かったのだ。

しかし、不思議なもので贔屓をしようと決めたら、謎はあれよあれよという間に解けていくのだ。馬鹿みたいな話だけれど(実際俺は馬鹿なんだけどね)陸奥一族を放り込めば謎は謎ではなくなってしまったのだ(陸奥圓明流外伝を描くってえのに、陸奥を放り込まずに何を描くのかという話もあるが)。

義経の伝説の中でも最もポピュラーな弁慶との五条大橋の対決、これに義経が勝って弁慶は家来になるという話。しかしこれ以降個人戦において義経がその強さを発揮した例はない……と言うよりどちらかと言えば非力を強調したような話の方が多いのだ。無論伝説であり作り話であるから(この伝説、初期のものは義経と弁慶の役どころが逆であったり、対決の場所も全然違うところだったりする。ちなみに本作品のあの場面は五条大橋ではなく、京の北東賀茂川を渡って下鴨神社に向かうための橋という設定)

本当の義経は弱くても構わないのだけれど、作り手側としてはやっぱり伝説の由来になりそうな話が欲しいじゃありませんか、それがないと二人の出逢いも謎になってしまう。

そして奥州下向……実はこれも謎だらけで、有名な『金売り吉次』によって……という話も物語の中にしか登場せず、義経自身が述べたものには（腰越状ってやつね）苦労して奥州に行きました……と取れる個所があるのみで、どこにも金売り商人の話は出てこない、にもかかわらず義経は奥州を目指し、そしてその結びつきは驚くほどに深く強いのだ。

手前味噌すぎて恥ずかしいのだけれど（しかもその味噌が旨いとは限らないところが怖い）、この謎に陸奥がはまれば簡単に解けてしまうじゃありませんか。

はっきり言って、この謎が解けた時には自分は天才じゃあなかろうかと普段の馬鹿ぶりを疑ったものだけれど、周りの人の証言により紙一重の方であるという事が確認されました。やっぱ馬鹿らしいです（おしい）。

とは言うものの、馬鹿は馬鹿なりにこの後も謎が解けて行くものだから、ついつい調子に乗ってネームを描いていったが最期、気がつけば九百枚に及ぶという大作になってしまった（たいがい刻は一度に全ネームを描きます）。迷惑かと思ったのだけれど、やってしまったものはしょうがない。そういう訳で今回の義経編は外伝の真骨頂（？）ほとんど義経記ともいえる、全四巻組になってしまいました（特に四巻目、修羅の刻第拾巻の分厚さときたらちょっと驚きもんですよ）。

そういう訳で多少長丁場にもなりますが、もしよろしければ次巻にもお付き合い願いたいと存じます。

平成九年　五月八日　川原正敏

●この本には、月刊少年マガジン1997年1月号、2月号に掲載された作品を収録しました。

編集／近藤尊泉

あなたは、この本を読んで、どのような感想をおもちになりましたか。

このほかに、「講談社コミックス」の中で、どんな本を読まれましたか。

このつぎには、どんな作家の、どんなまんがを読みたいとお考えですか。

コミックス編集の参考にさせていただきたいと思います。「読後の感想」と合わせて、左記のところあてにお知らせください。

東京都文京区音羽二丁目十二番二十一号
（郵便番号一一二―〇〇一）
「講談社コミックスフレンド」編集部

N.D.C. 726　196p　18cm

講談社コミックス（月マ）

修羅の刻 ⑦

574巻

1997年6月17日　第1刷発行

定価はカバーに表示してあります。

著者　川原正敏

発行者　五十嵐隆夫

発行所　株式会社講談社
東京都文京区音羽二丁目十二番二十一号
（郵便番号一一二―〇〇一）
編集部（〇三）五三九五―三五四五
販売部（〇三）五三九五―三六〇八

印刷所　図書印刷株式会社

製本所　図書印刷株式会社

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なお、この本についてのお問い合わせは、月刊少年マガジン編集部宛にお願いいたします。

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ISBN4-06-333574-7　（月マ）　Printed in Japan

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ARE FLOWING
THE CLOUDS
BUT SOMEDAY, YOU HAVE TO RETURN TO OSHU!
ONLY THE TWO OF YOU WILL GO!

時代が、燃える

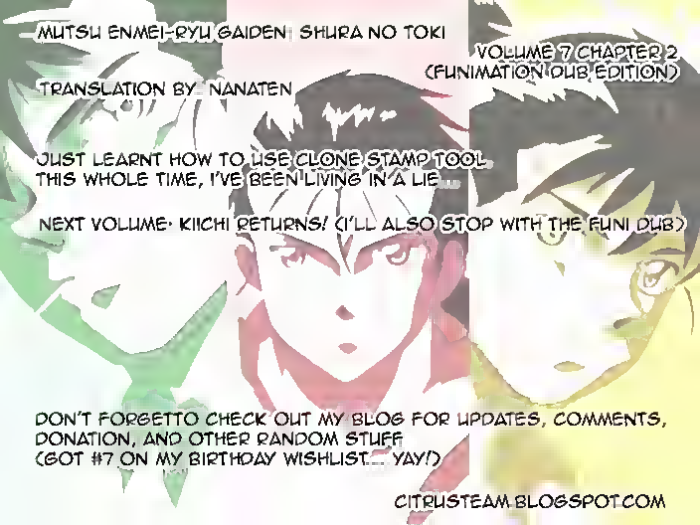
陸奥圓明流外伝

修羅の刻

VOLUME 8

PAY CLOSE ATTENTION AND WAIT!

NANATEN YEAH, I WENT WITH THE ANIME END TAG "PAY CLOSE ATTENTION AND WAIT!" IT SOUNDS BETTER THAN "LOOK FORWARD TILL NEXT TIME", RIGHT?


MUTSU ENMEI-RYU GAIDEN: SHURA NO TOKI
VOLUME 7 CHAPTER 2
(FUNIMATION DUB EDITION)
TRANSLATION BY: NANATEN
JUST LEARNT HOW TO USE CLONE STAMP TOOL.
THIS WHOLE TIME, I'VE BEEN LIVING IN A LIE...
NEXT VOLUME: KIICHI RETURNS! (I'LL ALSO STOP WITH THE FUNI DUB)
DON'T FORGETTO CHECK OUT MY BLOG FOR UPDATES, COMMENTS,
DONATION, AND OTHER RANDOM STUFF
(GOT #7 ON MY BIRTHDAY WISHLIST... YAY!)
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